UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22998
3 September 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 1 SEPTEMBER 1991 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Mr. Ahmad Hussein, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, dated 28 August 1991, concerning Security Council resolution 707 (1991).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sabah Talat KADRAT
Deputy Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 28 August 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 707 (1991).

The Government of Iraq considers that this resolution is unwarranted and that, like many of the other resolutions of the Council, it was adopted for motives based on the desire of a number of influential parties in the Security Council to harm Iraq and to contrive yet more pretexts for the non-implementation of the particular provisions of the Security Council resolutions from which Iraq may benefit by a lifting or mitigation of the unjust economic embargo imposed upon it. Iraq has fulfilled all of its obligations under the terms of resolution 687 (1991) in the manner requested by the inspection teams in general and the nuclear inspection teams in particular. It has done so by declaring all aspects of the Iraqi nuclear programme, whether in letters addressed to you or in those exchanged by the Chief of the Iraqi team and the Chiefs of the inspection teams that have visited Iraq. This has also been done in the seminars held, by answering all questions asked, and in the direct meetings held with those responsible for the nuclear programme and with research workers. This demonstrates the full cooperation that has been shown by the Iraqi authorities concerned.

For greater precision, we should like to state our view with regard to the provisions of the operative paragraphs of the Security Council resolution in question.

1. With regard to paragraphs 1 and 2, in which Iraq is condemned twice in the same resolution, it must be said that Iraq has adhered to all of its undertakings under the terms of Security Council resolution 687 (1991). It has, moreover, complied with the safeguards agreement concluded with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It has done so by means of the full disclosure of all aspects of the Iraqi nuclear programme and the measures it has taken on remedial action in implementation of the resolution adopted by the IAEA Board of Governors on 18 July 1991. We should like once more to ask the question we have addressed to IAEA on more than one occasion: what more is now required of us, after all the measures we have taken and all the information we have provided, so that Iraq may meet all of its obligations under the terms of the resolution?

2. With regard to paragraph 3 (i) of resolution 707 (1991), Iraq has already provided full, final and complete disclosure, as required by resolution 687 (1991), of all aspects of its programmes. There are no programmes of this type, of any kind whatever, that Iraq has not declared.

3. Since 28 June 1991, the inspection teams have noted no obstacle to their work in gaining access to any and all areas, facilities, equipment, records and means of transportation which they wish to inspect, as demanded in

paragraph 3 (ii). We should like, in this connection, to refer to the recent reports of the inspection teams, including that of the third nuclear inspection team contained in document GOV/INF/621 of 2 August 1991, in which reference is made to the full cooperation provided by the Iraqi side. We should like to ask once again: what site is there that a team has not been permitted to enter and inspect?

4. With regard to paragraph 3 (iii), the Government of Iraq took the decision, as of 28 June 1991, to cease any movement or destruction of any material or equipment relating to Security Council resolution 687 (1991). With the arrival of the third nuclear inspection team, agreement was reached by the Chief of the team and his Iraqi counterpart on the movement of certain equipment, after it had been seen by the team, to an appropriate location so as to facilitate future monitoring and inspection by the inspection teams. Certain of these measures were taken under the supervision of members of the third team, and the fourth team once again verified them. Agreement was also reached with the Chief of the fourth team on the continued movement and assembly of those materials and equipment that the team had seen and recorded to the collection sites on which the two parties had agreed for the purpose of facilitating future inspections.

5. Paragraph 3 (iv) refers to the concomitants of an issue which has become part of the past and which was over and done with even before the arrival of the third nuclear inspection team in the first week of July 1991. The third team examined all items and, together with the Iraqi side, undertook its removal to the locations agreed on. We therefore wish to ask what items are still outside the supervision of the inspection teams and to what were they denied access.

We should be very grateful if you or the Special Committee would kindly inform us about such items as are referred to in paragraph 3 (iv). Since there were no such items, we wonder what were the grounds for including this paragraph in the resolution.

6. With regard to paragraph 3 (v), Iraq has already given its opinion concerning aircraft flights. Although Iraq has no objections to that in principle, all that Iraq wishes to make clear, for its part, is that there are issues relating to administration, communications and logistics that must be taken into consideration in order to guarantee the safety of the aircraft and their crews and passengers and that Iraq is most concerned about that and hopes that the issue will be resolved by agreement and cooperation with the competent Iraqi authorities, in order to safeguard the security and safety of all.

7. With regard to the halting of all nuclear activities of any kind, as referred to in paragraph 3 (vi), although this goes beyond the measures set forth in resolution 687 (1991), from the scientific and the practical viewpoints there is no longer any nuclear activity, even in the most elementary sense, following the comprehensive destruction of Iraqi nuclear locations - reactors, laboratories, materials and other. This is referred to

also in the report of the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

I wish to point out that all the requirements of privileges and immunities and travel facilities of the inspection teams and medical care for them, referred to in paragraphs 3 (vii) and 3 (viii), have been made available in full and to the furthest extent possible in the light of the economic embargo imposed on Iraq. The recent reports of the inspection teams are the best testimony to that.

8. With regard to paragraph 5, Iraq reaffirms its full commitment to its international undertakings, including the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The preambular and operative paragraphs of resolution 707 (1991) are based on the provisions of resolution 687 (1991), but it deliberately overlooks the rights of Iraq set forth in resolution 687 (1991). In this connection, we wish to inquire what is requested of Iraq, in order that it may show even greater good will in demonstrating its compliance with Security Council resolutions.

We wish also to ask how long the Security Council will disregard the rights of Iraq laid down in Security Council resolutions and when the iniquitous economic embargo imposed on its people will be lifted.

(Signed) Ahmad HUSSEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq
Baghdad, 28 August 1991